

**For Immediate Release**

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**Herseth Sandlin Announces American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Grants**

**Washington, DC (September 24, 2010)-** Today U.S. Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin announced the award of U.S. Department of Education grants to the Cheyenne River and Oglala Sioux Tribes through the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Service Program. The grants are for a five-year period. The Cheyenne River Sioux will receive \$456,166 and the Oglala Sioux will receive \$861,129.

“The unemployment rates in Indian country are unacceptably high,” said Rep. Herseth Sandlin. “These much needed grants will provide important job training opportunities to disabled Native Americans in a culturally appropriate manner. This funding recognizes there are particular challenges to providing vocational rehabilitation on rural reservations, and will support the Cheyenne River Sioux and Oglala Sioux Tribes in their efforts to improve the lives of disabled tribal members.”

The purpose of the American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Service Program is to assist tribal governments to develop or to increase their capacity to provide a program of vocational rehabilitation services, in a culturally relevant manner, to American Indians with disabilities. Due to the rural locations of each of the reservations, it is difficult for disabled tribal members to get access to vocational rehabilitation programs. By receiving the grant awards, the tribes will be able provide those services close to home.

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